Run to Ottawa

sons could profit by this boy's view of things.

1 Cor.9:24 Even so run that ye may attain.

Intro. After the Annual Meeting we must face the coming year's work. What shall our reports indicate a year hence? A decline? or a holding on? or a going ahead?

The grammar school double victory yesterday made me think of Paul's illustration of the Olympian games to encourage the Corinthian Xns to press ahead in their work as a church. Some participated in the events who immediately afterwards started for Rio Vista to the C.E. Convention.

Out of their experiences perhaps we can learn some valuable lessons that will excourage us to go forward in our work.

I. Have an Ideal, a Vision, a Plan, a Purpose.

1. According to the plan of a County Track Meet every school participation has a vision of winning the meet. And to this end each school prepares and practices weeoks ahead.

The hour has come for action and conquest. We are at the beginning of a new crusade. We are facing not a setting, but a rising sun. One great need is vision. A man who never builds a castle in the air will never build one on the earth; and a man who does not see things ahead will never accomplish much at hand. I like the story of John Leland, of Virginia, who was busily digging a baptismal pool. "What is that for?" he was asked. "To baptize people," was his reply. "But there are no Baptists about here!" "No, but I'm digging this pool for the Baptists that are going to be about here."

The only people who get anywhere are those who set up high ideals. Those who do not try to do things worth while do nothing. I do not mean that everybody should try to "hitch his ambition to the stars!" There are plenty of things to do worth while which are far beneath the stars.

2. I would suggest the every department of the church set a goal of achievement for this year, a standard to be reached.

III.1. The patient training of the athletes befoee the contest takes place. Before we gain our victories we must patiently plod along , patiently try hard to over come all difficulties in the way.

IV. We must be of good courage.
It takes courage to succeed.

Every physician knows how discouragement affects the cure of the patient, delays it and often makes it impossible. Discouragement breaks the spirit, and when a man's spirit is broken he has no heart for anything. He is beaten in life's battle. A broken spirit, discouragement causes more failures, more suicides, more insanity, than almost anything else.

A struggling church has to guard against discouragement more than any other thing. The courageous man sees opportunity where others see only insurmountable difficulties and failure. "Be of good courage".

V. Use your head.

"A man must keep his eyes open. He must see and assort things, and figure out the value of everything to him. The captain of a Gloucester fishing schooner once remarked: 'I ain't read many books. Perhaps you might say I don't know much. But I comprehend a lot!' . . . And that's why he was captain of the schooner."

When you get up in the morning does your mind begin to work—or do you stay asleep all day long?

Big things are accomplished by people who keep their minds active. It isn't a difficult thing to do—

We show surprising ingenuity in getting up our entertainments, why cant we put as much thot int all our church work? And if we exercised our ingenuity thus, how much greater would our results amount to?

I.2. Also, that the church have a vision of achievement for this coming year.

- a. The perfection of our organization.
- b. The improvement of our equipment
- c. A membership drive. Decision Day.
- d. The enlarging of our missionary interests and an increase of our behevolences.
- e. Increasing our community service work Harrison's church every day.

II. Be enthusiastic.

1. The enthusiasm at the games yeaterday. The little earnest faces and sudden outbursts of cheering.
2. Enthusiasm makes for success in everything. We can easily become ehthusiastic over a game or an entertainment: we ought to just as easily become enthusiastic over our church and its work. It means so much more.
   The enthusiasm of the C.C.'s an example.

III. Cultivate patience.

Patience is one of the most beautiful, as it is one of the most difficult, of all virtues. It is exceedingly hard to not to show, by facial expression, word, or act, our irritation when things do not go just as we should like to have them, or when people do not speak or act just as we think they should. We are often tempted to let our feelings get the better of our judgment to such an extent that we ourselves become unhappy and our friends become offended. When James exhorted us to "let patience have her perfect work," he was hitting at a pretty weak point with most of us.

Two boys were making their way along the street with a small wagon loaded with scraps of fuel picked up at the railroad coal-chutes, relates the Observer of Cameron, Missouri. One was ahead, pulling—his hat back, eyes sparkling, and whistling cheerfully. The other was behind, pushing, and whining almost constantly because he stubbed his toes, stepped on stones or otherwise hurt himself. Finally the boy in front turned on him with this rebuke:

"Oh course there's stones in the road! There's always stones and sticks in the road, and a feller's got to get over 'em the best way be can. It don't help any to howl and tell everybody when you strike 'em, either. Just shut your face and keep pushing."

Many older persons could profit by this boy's view of things.

VI. AVOID MAKING EXCUSES.

After the event the defeated ones could be heard explaining how it was that they did not win.

We all do it. Many give up in self-pity, blaming others for their failure, or cirmumstances, or some thing else. Arguments for self-pity are as think as blackberries.

If we fail as a church we have only ourselves to blame for it. But we are not going to fail and we are mot going to make excuses.

VII. Let us all work together.

Every athlete worked for his school. Individual achievement was subordinated to the victory for the school. In church, we should work co-operatively, for the success of the Cause and not merely for individual achievement. The Golden Rule of ever bearing in mind the others in the wonrk should be constantly borne in mind.

But we should not neglect our individual efforts. Suppose a runner would say to himself,"Oh, well, it does'nt matter of I dont win this race. The others will make up for it. Yesterday's victory for the Boys depended upon the outcome of a single race- had that not been won the meet would have been lost to some other school.

Let each one in the church do his or her part, and let that part be his or her very best.

LET US SO WORK THIS YEAR AS TO ATTAIN.